BY-LAWS

OF

STRATHROY LODGE,

L. O. A., NO. 537.

Passed 29th May. Came into force 12th July, 1860.

STRATHROY:

PRINTED AT THE DISPATCH BOOK AND JOB OFFICE, FRONT ST.

1867.

The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA

Queen's University at Kingston

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PREAMBLE.

Without Laws and Regulations no body of men can long subsist, either with comfort to themselves or with reputation among others and order being a characteristic highly esteemed by our Institution the members of STRATHROY LOYAL ORANGE LODGE, No. 537, have agreed to, and adopted, clause by clause, the following BY-LAWS as a system calculated as well to obtain that end, as to cement a lasting friendship among the Brethren, to preserve decorum and harmony in the Lodge, and further to aid in carrying out the principles of our Institution, wherever the influence of this Lo'ge may be felt

OBLIGATION OF AN ORANGEMAN

I, A. B. do solemnly and voluntarily swear, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and to her lawful heirs and successors in the sovereignty of Great Britain and Ireland, and of those Provinces dependent on and belonging to the said Kingdom, so long as she or they shall maintain the Protestant Religion and the Laws of this country; that I will, to the utmost of my power, defend them against all traitorous conspiracies and attempts which I shall know to be against her or any of them; that I will steadily maintain the connections between the Colonies of British America and the Mother Country, and be ever ready to resist all attempts to weaken British influence, or dismember the British Empire; that I will be true and faithful to every brother Orangeman in all just actions, neither wronging him nor knowing him to be wronged or injured without giving him due notice thereof, and preventing it if in my power. I swear that I will ever hold sacred the name of our glorious deliverer, King William the Third, Prince of Orange, in grateful remembrance of whom, I solemnly promise (if in my power) to celebrate his victory over James at the Boyne in Ireland by assembling with my brethren in their Lodge Room on the 12th day of July in every year. I swear that I am not, nor ever will be, a Roman Catholic or Papist, nor will I marry a Roman Catholic or Papist, nor educate my children, nor suffer them to be educated in the Roman Catholic faith—nor am I now, or ever will be, a member of any society or body of men that are enemies to Her Majesty and our glorious Constitution; that I never was to my knowledge or belief, rejected in or expelled from any Orange Lodge. I further declare that I will do my utmost to support and maintain the Loyal Orange Institution, obey all regular summonses and pay all just dues (if in my power), and observe and obey the Constitution and Laws of the same; and, lastly, I swear that I

will always conceal, and never, in any way whatever, disclose or reveal the whole or any part of the signs, words or tokens that are now about to be privately communicated to me, unless I shall be duly authorized so to do by the proper authorities* of the Orange Institution, of which I am now about to become a member. So help me God, and keep me steadfast in this my Orangeman's obligation.

QUALIFICATIONS ESSENTIAL FOR A MEMBER.

He should have a sincere love and veneration for his Almighty Maker, productive of those lively and happy fruits, righteousness and obedience to His commands ; a firm and steadfast faith in the Saviour of the world, convinced that he is the only Mediator between a sinful creature and an offended Creator. His disposition should be humane and compassionate, and his behaviour kind and conciliatory ; he should be an enemy to savage brutality and every species of unchristian conduct ; a lover of rational and improving society, faithfully regarding the Protestant religion and sincerely desirous to propagate its precepts, i. e., charity and good will to all men; zealous in promoting the honor, happiness and prosperity of his Queen and country ; heartily desirous of success in those pursuits, yet convinced that God alone can grant them. He should have an hatred of cursing and swearing, and of taking the name of God in vain ; he should use all opportunities of discouraging them among his brethren, and shun the society of persons addicted to those shameful practices. Prudence should guide all his actions ; temperance, sobriety and honesty direct his conduct ; and the laudable objects of the Association be the motives of his endeavors.

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*The proper authorities here referred to are a Warrant under the Great Seals of the Grand Lodge or a special authority from a Grand Officer.

BY-LAWS.

I.—DESIGNATION.

That this Lodge shall be called, named and styled THE STRATHROY LOYAL ORANGE LODGE, No. 537.

II.—MONTHLY MEETINGS.

That the regular Monthly Meeting of this Lodge shall be held on the first Tuesday preceding the Full of the Moon, in each month, at 8 o'clock, p. m., from May to October, inclusive and at 7 o'clock, p. m., from November to April, inclusive, provided that it may be lawful for the Lodge to dispense with such regular meeting in favor of a special meeting, to be holden on any day and hour which the Lodge may deem most convenient

III.—PUNCTUALITY OF OFFICERS.

That the officers of this Lodge shall be in attendance at the hours appointed, under a penalty on each of them of five cents for each quarter of an hour that the Lodge may have been detained through their absence, unless the explanations offered by the absent officer be such as shall meet the approbation of the Lodge.

IV.—APPEARANCE IN LODGE.

That officers and members shall appear in Lodge meetings with uniform badges appropriate to the degrees they may have received or such as the Master may direct, under a penalty of 12½ cents for each offence.

V.—HOUR OF CLOSING MEETINGS.

That the Master or other presiding officer shall so arrange the business of the Lodge that it shall be closed at 10 o'clock p m,

under a penalty of 12½ cents for each quarter of an hour that the Lodge shall be kept open beyond the prescribed hour. Provided, nevertheless, that the meeting in December and January may continue until 11 o'clock, and that the Lodge may permit the Master to prolong the sitting at the other meetings for one hour, on application being made ; such permission not to be granted on two consecutive meetings.

VI.—DUTY OF MEMBERS ON ENTERING THE LODGE.

The members on entering the Lodge shall proceed in front of the Master, and salute him with the sign of the order then at work.

VII.—QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES.

That no person shall be admitted a member of this Lodge who is in the habit of swearing, using profane or obscene language, or of drinking intoxicating liquors to excess.

VII.—ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

All votes upon the admission of members shall be *viva voce* if there shall be over three negatives, the vote shall be considered conclusive ; but if only three, or under, the vote shall be submitted to the Committee of the Lodge, whose decision, made known by report, shall be final.

IX.—TERMS OF ADMISSION.

That each candidate for initiation shall deposit through his proposers, with the Treasurer, the sum of fifty cents, which if accepted, shall be applied as part of the initiation fee, and returned in case of rejection, or it shall be forfeited to the Lodge should the candidate not attend within three months after his proposal. In such case he cannot again become a candidate without further proposal and deposit. The candidate shall also pay to the Treasurer, immediately after initiation the balance of said initiation fee.

X.—INITIATION FEE.

That the iniation fee of this Lodge shall be $3. For the degree of Purple, $0.75 ; Blue, $1.00 ; Royal Arch Mark, $1.50.

XI.—DUTY OF COMITTEEMEN ON QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES.

That the Committee shall investigate into the characters of all candidates for initiation, and report in writing to the Lodge, under a penalty of 12½ cents for neglect. In order to facilitate the action of the Committee, the Secretary shall be required to give them, before the Lodge is closed, a list of the names and residence of all candidates, under a penalty of 12½ cents for each omission.

XII.—MEETINGS OF EMERGENCY.

The Master of the Lodge may at any time call a meeting of Emergency, taking care that all members are, as far as possible, duly notified. In all cases the brother called upon to notify the members shall be paid for such service out of the funds of the Lodge.

XII.—SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

That any Brother appointed on a Special Committee who shall not attend at the time and place appointed, or if physically unable to attend at the time, and shall not have given notice beforehand to some other member of such Committee, shall be fined 50 cents for such offence, unless otherwise determined by a majority of such Committee.

XIV.—MONTHLY DUES.

That the Monthly Dues of this Lodge shall be 12½ cents per month.

XV.—ENFORCEMENT OF FINES.

That any member having rendered himself liable to a fine under the By-Laws of this Lodge, and who refuses to pay such fine

after proper demand made, and time given, shall be suspended until such fine be paid.

XVI.—DEMAND OF CERTIFICATE.

That on demand of Certificate the sum of 50 cents shall be first paid to the Treasurer, and should the applicant afterwards neglect or refuse to draw such Certificate, said sum shall be forfeited to the Lodge.

XVII.—RULES IN SPEAKING.

That when a Brother speaks on any matter before the Lodge, he shall rise and address the Chair, commencing—" Worshipful Sir and Brethren,"—strictly confining himself to the matter under discussion. He shall not be interupted while speaking, except by the presiding officer, when he shall see fit to call him to order, or to advise him to a closer adherence to the subject No member shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject, unless by special permission of the Lodge, or when an explanation is necessary. On two or more members rising at once, the presiding officer shall decide who shall first address the Lodge.

XVIII.—QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS.

That no Brother shall be eligible to become an office-bearer in this Lodge who has not received the Royal Arch Degree of the Orange Institution of British North America.

XIX.—SICKNESS OF MEMBERS.

Should any member of this Lodge become aware of the sickness of any Brother, he shall cause inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the afflicted Brother, and if found to be in need of assistance, he shall render such as may be in his power, and report to the Lodge at its next meeting. No assistance shall be rendered

to any Brother whose sickness is caused through their own misconduct, or who shall not always have conducted themselves in a proper and becoming manner on all occasions.

XX.—FUNERALS OF MEMBERS.

Should any member of this Lodge be removed from amongst us by death, the Lodge shall meet by order of the Worshipful Master, who shall consult the members as to the mode of interment, and cause the most solemn respect to be paid to his remains, and attention to his family, if any. Should any Brother misconduct himself during the proceedings of the funeral, he shall be fined or suspended as the Lodge may see fit.

XXI.—MODE OF RECEIVING COMPLAINTS.

That any Brother having just cause, may prefer a complaint or charge against another, but such charge must be in writing, and shall state in a distinct manner the nature and particulars of such charge, otherwise the same shall not be entertained by the Lodge, nor shall the complaint be considered until ample notice is first given by the Secretary to the Brother complained against.

XXII.—REGISTRY OF MEMBERS.

That the Secretary shall register members' names and residence beginning with the Master, and the several officers, then the other members in rotation, and shall call the roll every night, marking present or absent as the case may be. Each and every member who shall have been absent three months in succession shall be summoned before the Committee and treated as a majority of said Committee shall decide.

XXIII.—ABSENCE FROM DECEMBER MEETING.

That any Brother absent from the Annual Meeting in December without assigning reasonable cause, shall be fined 50 cents.

XXIV.—DIVULGING THE BUSINESS OF THE LODGE.

Any member who shall utter any matter or thing derogatory to the Institution, or the character of any of its officers or members, or divulging the business of the Lodge, whether communicated to him by a Brother or transacted in his presence, to persons not members of our Institution, shall be deemed guilty of a violation of his obligation, and shall be expelled or otherwise dealt with, as a majority of the Lodge shall determine.

XXV.—ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS.

That no addition or alteration shall be made in these By-Laws without notice of such having been given at two consecutive meetings of the Lodge, previous to that on which it shall be taken into consideration, and no alteration or addition shall be made unless carried by at least a majority of two-thirds of those present.